

## SAMPLE LETTER FOR BUSINESS

February XX, 2015

Dr. Barry Wallerstein  
Executive Officer  
**South Coast Air Quality Management District**  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

### **Re: Air Toxics Risk Communication and Risk Management Guidelines**

Dear Dr. Wallerstein:

Before adopting your updated AB 2588 communications and risk management guidelines, I urge you to listen and work with local business leaders in order to avoid unnecessarily alarming the public while harming local businesses and our economy.

For nearly 30 years, businesses have worked with state and local air district officials to reduce emissions and air toxic risks in California by 80%. We are proud of our contributions to environmental and public health protection and work diligently to preserve these benefits while we strive to remain competitive under the most stringent air quality standards in the nation.

Despite these significant accomplishments, new guidelines recently adopted by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment have changed the way air quality health risk will be estimated and will result in new, higher risk estimates. Under the new guidelines, my business could now be blamed for creating a “new” health risk in my community, even though my emission levels have not changed or have even been reduced and I have made no changes to my operations.

This perceived “new” health risk, if not put into appropriate context, will create confusion and fear amongst my neighbors and customers and could lead to a public backlash toward my business. Furthermore, it is likely to create a false impression that air toxics emissions are on the rise here locally, reflecting poorly on our local air quality management district.

I urge you to develop realistic risk communication policies that will provide the public with clear and credible explanations of why the Health Risk Assessment guidelines have changed and what the changes really mean in terms of actual health risks. My neighbors and customers need to realize their air quality has not worsened but, in fact, has greatly improved over the last three decades.

The new guidelines could also affect my facility operations if my permit renewal process is delayed due to the public’s concerns about my emissions. I am also worried that I may be required to implement new risk reduction measures that could be costly and onerous, despite

the fact that nothing has changed at my facility to warrant this action. If not implemented with care and flexibility, such requirements could significantly harm my business.

We all benefit – local businesses as well as the local air district – by providing clear and meaningful information to the public. The last thing we want is to give the public the false impression that air toxics emissions are on the rise.

Please give careful consideration to the development and implementation of the new risk communication and risk management guidelines.

Sincerely,